



If one smite another with an Instrument of Iron, that hee die, hee is a Murderer, and the Murderer shall dye the Death. Or if he smite him with an Hand-weapon of Wood, whereby he may be slaine, if he die, he is a Murderer, and the Murderer shall die the Death. Numb. 35. verse 16.



The form of the instrument of wood and iron that hee used to furre with.



HEAVEN'S SPEEDIE

Hue and Cry sent after Lust
and Marthen.

Manifested upon the suddaine apprehending
of *Thomas Shearwood*, and *Elizabeth Evans*,
whose manner of Lives, Death, and
free Confessions, are heere
expressed.

Who were Executed the one upon the 14. and the
other on the 17. of this Moneth of April 1635.
neere to the place where the facts
were committed, and now
doe hang in chaines.

Written by *H. G.* their daily Visiter, at the
time of their Imprisonment, and severall
days of Execution.

Published by Authority.

LONDON:

Printed by *N. and I. Okes*, dwelling in Well-yard in lit-
tle St. Bartholomews, neare unto the lame
Hospital gate, 1635.

HEAVEN SPEDIE

Introducing
the
best
of
the
best

h. j. jones

W. H. Jones
1860

Introducing

W. H. Jones

Introducing
the
best
of
the
best



THE PREFACE.

God having vouchsafed to have Resumed my Pen, which I resolved in this Nature for ever to be silent. But the common good, and preseruation of my Countries welfare, incites mee unto this officious service. As one that standeth Centinell in the Night, vnto whom Fidelity and Trust is reposed, and the safety of the whole Army dependeth: (Even so am I,) to discover the private and suddain approaching of the Enemies. Like a Watch-man to observe all commers in and out, into the Gates of the City, to unvaise pernicious Passengers, which

The Preface.

which Dayes and Nights unceasantly passe through the Streets, and in the secret corners of the same privily lurke, and watch an opportunity to cozen, rob, and murther. I presume not to instruct the prudent and wise, that were absurd and ridiculous: But the Levell of my intention is, to make the vulgar Ignorants so wise, as to walke warily and circumflectly; which plaine path they may knowingly see, and discerne by this fequent discovery of such notorious offenders that live upon the spoyles of such Passengers, and Travellers resorting up unto London upon their necessary affaires. A new kinde of invented wickednesse, and fearfull mischiefe, but I hope by Gods mercy, and the late exemplary Justice, strangled in the Birth, is this Narration of Country Tom, and Bessie of Canberry, so termed by those of their alike base disposition. A Woman, Oh shame unto her modest tender Sexe! to become a settler, or set on such a brazen face, that upon a man unknowne unto her, shew saucy in the open Streets, and with her deceitfull smiles, dairies and

The Preface.

and salutes so inchaunts, and incaptivates, and
drawes him unto Slaughter. Like a decoy
Ducke, shee is alone going abroad, but not a-
lone returning ^{to the 2nd and 3rd lines} associated with multitudes
homeward. The bargaine shee strikes up, and
goeth before, to a secret appointed place, upon
whom, unawares to the seduced person, atten-
deth a mercilesse, strong Thiefe, and most bar-
barous cruell Murtherer, that at once strikes
and slayes: of whose cunning practices, se-
cret snares, and subtil wiles I labour to give
all people a light, and true insight; God Al-
mighty give it a blessing unto his good plea-
sure and thy benefit, unto whom I am thy true
professed friend during the time of my morta-
lity.

H. G.

Certaine

part A

Certaine pregnant Inducements, out of
the Holy Scripture, against murder and
Man-slaughter.

THe first is, the direct words of Gods Command-
ment, *Thou shall not kill.* [Exod. 20. 13.]

Who so sheddeth mans blood, by man shall
his blood be shed. For in the image of God
hath he made man. *I Cor. 11. 31.*

He also that killeth any man, *Hee shall surely*
be put to Death. *Leviticus 24. 17.*

YEE are of your fathers ~~Barbarians~~ ~~Scythians~~ ~~Abra~~
luts of your father you will doe: *Hee hath*
beene a Murderer from the beginning, &c. *Ioh. 8.*

If any kill with the sword, *hee must be killed by*
the sword: *Here is the patience and the Faith*
of the Saints.

And therefore,

Let all bitterness, and anger, wrath, and c-
vill speaking be put away from you, with all
~~malignitie~~ ~~malice~~.

A True



A
 TRVE COPPY
 OF THE EXAMINATION
 and Confession of *Thomas Sherwood*,
 commonly called *Coutry-Tom*, and *Eliza-*

beth Evans, best knowne by the name

of *Casbery Bosse*: concerning bloody and

inhumane Murders committed on the

backe-side of Clarken-well neare

London, upon three Gentlemen, at

three severall times: the man-

ner wherof will appeare

two miles apart in the sequill.

Also their Execution and verball Confes-

sion at their Death.

BEFORE I enter into the listes of
 the ensuing Relation, there are
 of these two most miserable Ca-
 tifles, remarkable Observations
 in their severall lives: (lives did I
 say?) to say so I doe grossly mistake; for al-
 though they were living, yet then dead they
 were in most foule and abhominable sinnes,
 and clamorous crimes, that sent hot pursuite
 after them at all times, and in all places with-

out intermission, to sweep them from off the face of the earth.

The Observations.

Note.

1. First, what a viperous brood of Sinnes were engendred, conceived, and brought forth by these Monsters Male and Female: what a Chaine of Sinnes is heere linked, and twisted one to each other.
2. Secondly, the Stygmaticall marke that Heaven did set upon them both in their two severall names.

The Origin. 1. First, Idleness; the indulgent Mother, cannot, be able to give bread, or cloathing to her pampered and poysoned little ones in youth with Sloth, but like a curst Step-mother sends them out of daores, to seeke bread in desolate places.

2. Secondly, Sloth or Idlenesse scornes to worke, especially with the hands, for that is not Gamete like: yet I woulde they see they must for the cestuires sake, and a master they have at hand, (the Devill) that safely as they suppose, setteth them on worke.

3. b Wheridly, from Sloth springeth forbidden
Theft; b wheridly ylterg god I of wh or () yl
4. b Wheridly, fr The fr springeth beastry Lust;
5. b Fustlyd, from filthy Lust they danch our
into the deepes to Blood-shed and Murder.
-dwi 229b 11s ni bns 229b 11s ni bns 229b 11s ni bns

6. Finally, thus by degrees they finish their *Remember-*
destruction, and the full Cup of Gods heavy this.
wrath and displeasure, forcibly they drinke
up.

Slow asinsKI right. Hoffmooz verdi 2 A
 and I did not like the book at all. A

2. *Observation.*

On both their Names, behold what a
Brand is set on them by Heaven : high scorne
and derision ; perishing before they perished,
forgotten before they were dead : For by
*the Names of *Courtesy-Tom*, and *Canberry-**
Besse, they were knowne unto the World :
The honest Stocke, and Parents from which
they descended, forgetting, and denying.
Scripture saith, The memoriall of the wicked shal
perish : Let him be wiped out of the Booke of Re-
membrance, and that, because his minde was
not so doe good. Thus with them.

Note.

No feare
No thought } of God.
No care
No love

And therefore for them,

No memory,

No losse,

No place of Buriall,

No mourning, to say, Alas my Brother,

or alas my Sister.

*The narration of the manner of the**course of their lives.*

AS they confessed, their Names were *Thomas Sherwood*, and *Elizabeth Evans*, the one borne in *Stafford-shire*, there brought up by his Parents, a laborious Husbandman: The other borne in *Shropshire*, of a very good parentage descended, who carefully for her good education, and future preferment, sent her up unto *London*, to some friends, who settled her in a good service, as shee confessed at her Death: But unfortunately it happened, that shee grew acquainted with a young man in *London*, who tempted her unto folly, and by that ungodly act her sudden ruine ensued.

By reaon of such her folly, her Friends failed, and frowned on her: Oh unnatural blemish! thus to forsake, cast off, and forget their owne deare flesh; all meanes of livelyhood failing, her left thus destitute, and out of all, credit, friends, money, apparel, and service: A base loose course of life shee resolves on, and therein as shee freely confessed, continued the space of 4. yeares, untill at last shee unhappily happened to get into familiarity, and acquaintance with this *Country-Tom*, otherwise *Thomas Sherwood*, with whom shee constantly accompanied day and

and night for the terme of a yeaſe, or there abouts. And having obtained ſuch a mate fit for his owne humour and inclination, ſecretly theſe two combin'd, refolv'd, and put in practice their new invented myſterie of Iniquity, as followeth.

Whenſoever they went forth out of their Lodgings, they ſevered not themſelves, but kept within ſight one of another alwayes, both hunting for one prey ; and frequenting and watching ſuch places, and houses, for persons ſitted for their occaſion, and to make uſe of.

2 1 To Play-houſes.

2 2 To Tavernes.

The places they 3 To Innes.

reſorted unto, 4 To Ale houſes.

5 To the open Streetes.

6 To the Fields.

If by chance they did meeete with one that had beeene that day too busie with the Pot, ſuch an one was fit for their Net : then the brazen-face Strumpet preſently claimes acquaintance, that ſhe knew him of long time, whole face he never ſaw before ; and ſo farther into familiar diſcourse, and complements they proceed, that further courtesies are deſired, and promiſed in ſome ſecret place, to paſſe betwene them. This new guest, and

anwom

B 3

acquain-

acquaintance thus taken up in the way by her, away she hastens with her prize, and carries him unto the Chambers of death: As witnesseth the Murthering by such her slight, the said Gentleman of great Note, and good quality, Eminent in place and substance, Master *Richard Holt*, a Merchant and Citizen of London, whom they murthered in *Clarkenwell* fields, in January last past: Likewise Master *Thomas Claxton* Gentleman, a Lieutenant, in *Grayes Inne-fields*, the first of this instant April, 1635. Also to another Gentleman, whom they robbed of his Cloake and Hat, by name Master *Michael Lowe*, at the pitch of the Hill going downe to *Hockley Hole* in *Clarkenwell* Parish, at which place they gave him his Deaths wound, and had not ayde upon his out-cry, hastily come upon them, they had without doubt flaine him; but within one quarter of a yeare afterwards Master *Michael Lowe* dyed of the same wound in his Head then by *Chin-trey Tom*, so forcibly strooke, that Master *Lowe* did then very narrowly escape bleeding to death.

*The free Confession of Thomas Sherman, only
after the time of his apprehension, in 1635.*
Two Moneths, and two Weekes were
completely expired, before it could bee
knowne

knowe what barbarous hand had lacted that
facionous Factor the body of Master ~~Row~~
~~Land Holt~~ found dead, and with blowes very
much bruised. to remode
mocaww and
a vifid w
and in yham
rebound

This Hound of Hell, that did this cruell mur-
ther, fleshe thus, greedily seeketh for more
Mans flesh ; and thirsteth afresh after more
blood. He thought, that in that little space
604, and the People had forgotten Mr. Holt's
blood, as himselfe had ; who securely againe
starts out, and he with his constant mischie-
vous Companion, to their damnable former
resolutions in all Impieties, putteth on the
habit, that now to kill a man, (tush) it is not
worth the talking of, or taking of notice,
as so it may be conjectured of them ; who in
so short a space, to the first Murder added the
second, the places both of them being with-
in the sight of each other, which might de-
terre them from such their unnaturall and un-
godly intention and determination, from the
shedding of more innocent blood. and below

Upon Wednesdaye Night, in Easter weeke
last past, 1631: about the houre of Nine, these
two inhumane Creatures did meeete about
the Kings gate which is by Elomesborry, a
proper costly apparelled Gentleman, Ma-
ster Thomas Claxton, a Souldier, and Lieute-
nant, who that day and time that this Mon-
ster of her Sexe interchanged discourse, and
with

The form of ~~with familiar complements~~ (oh lamentable to his weapon, speake) had drunke to much, as these two which lay secretly in his yld wretches confessed. ~~rob brouf the hand~~

breeches.

Words past betwixt Master *Claxton* and that Harlot *Besse of Cumbery*, together these two goe; but who followed them both, the poore Gentleman was altogether ignorant, and little suspected: After them both *Counstrey Tom* hasteneth, with a short Trunchin, or Bastinado under his cloake, and findes companyng together his Harlot with Master *Claxton*, whom she had treacherously trayned into *Grayes Inne* fields, a stonnes cast wide from the High-way, where what they did, I so charitably am opinionated of the deceased Gentleman, that to their slanderous calumniations, and traducings concerning him, I give not the least credence. For those to beleeve, whose hands were so foully stained with blood, their breath unworthy to blast the good name, or brand the good that the world conceived of the reputation of such a Gentleman as Mr. *Claxton* was. Inhumanely with a short Trunchin of Iron which *Sherwood* carried under his cloake by his bloody polluted hands, with this weapon he instantly deprived master *Claxton* of life, and after that done, they both fell to rasing the pockets, and incivilly strip, (all humanity laying aside) the body bare and naked, and in that manner

Wherupon he left it, and so fled away. When he had recollecteado his distracted thoughts, and throbbeing haire heart, within two houres after (as he sayd) hee return'd unto the place, to behold that sad spectacle of master ~~Claxton~~ Claxton slaughtered bo-
dy, who (as he said) was liuor staine out-righte, for he
had haue sleape and more, and that he had turned
himselfe on his belly after he left him; and had not
the winde taken his woudes, he might very well have
beene recovered unto health. But part living life was
extincte in him, alight is become the chiefest comfort,
and refuge: Since he cometh to her old acquainted lodg-
ing, at St. Giles in the fields, and he taketh his course
another way.

The Morning ensuing, betimes he dispatcheth a
speedy messenger unto his Copartner in mischiefe,
appointing his matchleesse Mate to meeete with him
forthwith in Chancery-fields, which according unto his
appointment he did at the place, and time by him
prefixed. And obserue how thither hee commeth
with his understanding so infatuated by the irefull
Judge of Heaven, that with the apparrell he commeth
on his backe that morning, of the Gentlemans whom
he flew the Night before, and walke was layd for such
fashioned apparrell, which he wore, and proferred to
sell in Houndsditch so inconsiderately, suddainly was
apprehended. Preparation he was making to travell
downe into the Countrey: For he bought a new Pe-
ticoate for her that dearely earned it; and he profe-
red unto Sale the Apparrell which hee never bought,
nor paid for; to put himselfe into money likewise, to
bearc both their charges for their intended journey.

But as *Equity* and *Injustice* commanded, they both
C together

together were apprehended, and by the Authority of Magistracy presently sent unto Newgate, where whom thither an inquisitorious, judicious, and discreet Gentleman Master Long, a Commissioner of the Peace, in the County of Middlesex, frequently resorted, and tooke there their severall Examinations so carefully, punctually, and truly, that both the Malefactors out of their owne mouths, against themselves confessed the same, totally just: I touch here but briefly upon them, for I intended not at all to mention much of their confessions, for feare my brevity should wrong, or intrench upon his present discussion and politike insinuations into them, by which forcibly he discovered all their Villanies, and made the truth apparent.

There was a great Rumour spread, that this ~~Shrews~~ wood had slaine divers persons else, besides Mr. Gloucest~~ton~~ and Mr. Holt, as the woman at Lambeth, that was slaine in her house the last Winter, a Child also, for which two were executed, all these are but flying Tales. To give therefore the World satisfaction, I have here set downe his free and voluntary confession of such persons he slew, which he confirmed at his Death: besides many great Robberies he was guilty of, whereof master Long hath his free confession.

The day of his conviction, I heard it in the Sessions yard reported, that Sherwood had slaine a Gentleman master Michael Low, whose Father was sometimes Lord Mayor of London, and his selfe of late collated into the place of Secondary in the Counter of Wood-street.

I was entreated by master Lowes friends to be instant with Sherwood, to discover if he could, the per-

son that robbed and wounded him. His Answer con-
cerning that imponing, and this, that he know the par-
ties that did it, and if hee bold to Night repaire unto
to him, he would really make them knowne unto me.

Hereupon I addressed my selfe unto master *Long*,
I and acquainted him what I had done, and that as I
suspected by my discourse with *Sherwood*, that hee
could not be guiltless of the Robbing of master *Low*.

That very Evening although late, master *Long* went
to *Sherwood* to *Newgate*, where there as at his death,
he sayd, hee with *Elizabeth Evans* Robbed master
Low of his Hat and Cloake by the Lady *Huttons* wall
about *Michaelmas* Tyme last: and further said, hee
thought that the wounds hee then gave him in his
Head with this Instrument, or the like, was the cause
of his death: which generally is so voted, because
he died within a quarter of a yere with an Impos-
tration in his Head, the wound being cured, but in-
wardly rankid and festered. For money, he said, hee
ooke none at all from him; for that day a little be-
fore he had delivered up all his money unto his Ser-
vant.

Freely he confessed the murthering of Master *Row-
land Holt* in *Clarkenwell* fields: The murthering of
Master *Thomas Claxton* in *Graves Inne* fields, and rob-
bing and wounding of Master *Michael Lowe* by the
Lady *Huttons* wall: Besides, guilty of many Notori-
ous Felonies and Robberies, committed in *Middle-
sex*, to a great number. Further discovering many
base persons of his condition, and the dispersed pla-
ces of secret harbouring such unprofitable obnoxio-
us members unto a State and Common-wealth.

to this, the money largely went into the pockets of the rich. His Aunt Louisa

There was no profit at all in his life time to his
Country, but in his Discoverie and Death. I
hope some use, and good service unto the Country
may redound. His associates, I hope, shall be bani-
shed, which he hath branded, and with them, their
Receivers and Harbourets. His Death and hanging
up now in chaines, an example to deterre others not
so to offend, which I pray God give such a blessing
to all the people. Amen.

Being brought unto the place of his Death, he there minded nothing else, but how to dye, desiring of the people that they would not preesse him unto further confessions, to debarre his Soule of better meditations, but so rest satisfied with his confessions, which he had made unto Master Long and my selfe, and nothing else but truth contained in them, confirmed by a serious affirmation proceeding then out of his mouth. This done hee turned himselfe towards the people, speaking unto them, and praying for them very hartily, without admonishing all that did see him that day, to beware of Whores, for they were the worst Company in the World, wising all to beware by his full, and not to bee seduced, or blind-fold led, as hee was by such bewitching Creatures, to irrecoverable ruine. In the posture of his Body, hee expressed true Humility, for all the time of Prayer, hee prayed kneeling. In his Prayers unto God, hee expressed an unexpected fervency by these words, and short ejaculations unto Heavens mercy seat, sensibly feeling the heavy Burden of

the Sinner, most hardly implored, in the hands of Almighty God, his mercy and forgiveness for them, I will do him this right, to expresse the Ardeney of his Soule, when the word Mercy was uttered: this Exaltation from his owne mouth proceeded, the hearing of the word Mercy, was sweet and savory unto his sorrowfull Soule, for in the great anguish of Soule he prayed, and onely relied saying thus: O Lord my sinnes are so haynous, great and many, if thy Mercy helpe me not, what will become hereafter of my poore Soule. ~~Wher~~ And onely say unto me, and onely trust; thy mercy did save the whole World of sinners, and Lord I hope my great sins cannot exceed thy great mercies. After these speeches hee returned with hearty requests unto God to forgive him his haynous sinnes: Hee beseeched all the People that were there present, all to forgiue him, whom he had offendid, and to sayne with him in harty prayer unto the Almighty in his behalfe to forgiue him, and to redeeme his Soule to mercy.

A fewe those harty exercizes accomplished, the first psalm was sung, and after that by his request was sung the Lamentation of a sinner. That ended, I asked him if he was willing to dye, to which hee made no answere, most we come death was uncertaine: for all the while he lived, his life was as a Roast of Trouble to him, and most uncomfortable. But his death he joyfully embrased, and mortall life cheerfully did surrender up, and sent his soule out of his body flying, calling on the name of the Lord Iesu to receiue him. And all the people speaking to God for him, likewise with their loude voices, and strong acclamation, Lord Iesu take mercy on him, sweete Iesu forgiue his sinnes, and save his Soule.

Edward the Ninth of England, who was
hanged in the Tower of London, by the command of King Edward the Ninth.

Now to the particular Narration of Elizabeth
Evans the impious Fellow-mate of

Thomas Sherwood.

Concerning her, I have very little matter offered to
dilate; I found this Sherwood and her so different
in their severall confessions unto me, that I wonderfully
admired, that two alwaies inseparable in such prosecu-
tions of evill, should be so contradictory one unto each
other. But I easily reconciled the doubt, in the particu-
lar observation in their two severall maners of dying.

A Woman she was that died, for whose sake and in
merius Sexe sake, something must bee alledged solen-
ble: Yet something I found in her maner of death, at
the time of her confession, a perfect bare, and execra-
tion against all Theefes, which caused her death. And
furthermore in signe of such her desperation,
of such unholie courses, proceeded from her mouth a most
serious request unto all then present assembled, aduising
all poore simple women to marry an honest man, though
but a Ragge-gatherer, rather then a lord man or a
Theefe, rendering the reason of such her earnest admo-
nition, because an honest man may make an evill woman
turne from her evill maies, but it was hard for an evill
man, to make a wicked woman good, with divers other
admonitions to the wonder of the standers by, I can shewingly
what a life she had lived in.



Concerning what shee laid at the place
of her execution.

Nothing shee here expressed very remarkable, concerning
her old Companion in Mischiefe, *Thomas Shearwood*;
who on Candlemas day last, prested amongst the Jurors, at
the *Christopher Taverne* in Fumhill Street alias Turnebull
Street to view the dead Corps of Master *Rowland Holt*, by
him murthered; his Nose immediatly gushed out with such issues
of blood, that shee feared there by to bee discovered, and re-
turning unto her Land, I have suffered such a thing this day
about Master *Holt*, wee must of necessity, leave of this course
of life.

I found her with the feares of Death very much perplexed
and amazed, distractively casting her eyeshere, and there, at
last shee espies the High Elmes neare which place Master
Claxton was slaine, and fetch a deepe fighand said, would
to God I had never bee that place. I found both *Shear-*
woods, and her Confession to agree both in the Murthering of
Master *Holt*, Master *Claxton*, and Master *Low*, onely
they differed, in the tripping of Master *Claxton*; for *Shear-*
wood in the receiving of the blessed Body and Blood of Jesus
Christ with her, then affirmed to her face, that shee helped
him, for to take Master *Claxton* cloathes off, shee there
confidently, denied the same, and confirmed at her Death,
whereunto as also unto other base aspersions on the dead, I
give no credence, this of her who died very penitent, and after
her execution was convered to Barber Surgeons Hall, for an
Anotomy; of whom I hope, God did take mercy.

A generall admonition.

Dear Countrymen, and Brethren, it is intended
to give a general exhortation upon all
1. Parents. 2. Children.

3. Masters. 4. Servants.

1 Parents, care not on your Children, neither leave them to
shift in the wilde world in their Youth, knowing how subiect
Youth is unto temptation, and to be iustified in the time of
necessitie, and extreame want.

2 Children, obey your earthly Parents unto such as obey,
God hath promulged his two-fold blessing; first, Life tempor-
all; Secondly, Life eternall.

3 Masters terrestrial, be good to your earthly Servants,
knowing yee have all one Master which is Christ in Heaven,
that shall one day judge you for the good and evill you have
done.

4 Servants, obey your earthly Masters, and the Masters auth-
ority is knowne by obedience to their Commandments: Who-
soever refuseth, receiveth the greater condemnation.

One thing more I will command unto you, The in-
decency of a milke-woman, in finding him naked, cou-
rseth him with her approbation.

CONCILIATION.

There is nothing more to be done, than to give
theire exhortation, and to bee
and to be sold me by my selfe Despatched.

April 23. 1635. At his houre, to my loue; Hen. Goodcole.

Yesterd.

FINIS.





